



## *Report to the Auburn City Council*

Action Item

Agenda Item No.

2

City Manager's Approval

**To:** Mayor and City Council Members  
**From:** Council Member Bridget Powers  
**Prepared by:** Amy M. Lind, Asst. City Clerk  
**Date:** May 23, 2011  
**Subject:** Water Shortage Emergency

### **The Issue**

Shall the Council endorse the resolution encouraging Auburn residents to conserve water during this water shortage emergency?

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

By **RESOLUTION**, encourage Auburn residents to conserve water during the water shortage emergency.

### **Background**

The Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) provides water for residential, commercial, industrial, irrigation, municipal and resale purposes throughout its Western Water System. Water to the Western Water System is normally supplied almost entirely by Pacific Gas & Electric Company pursuant to water supply contracts between the Agency and PG&E. Water for major portions of the Western Water System is delivered to the Agency by PG&E through PG&E'S Bear River Canal. On April 19, 2011, PG&E's Canal collapsed and totally failed, resulting in complete loss of the of the 244 cubic feet per second water supply normally available to the Agency and its customers from PG&E. PG&E's repair of the PG&E Canal and restoration of normal water deliveries through the Canal is unlikely to be completed before warmer weather and higher water demands completely outstrip currently available replacement supplies that can be obtained. It is necessary and in the best interests of the Agency's Western Water System and the consumers of water from that water system that measures be instituted to conserve the Agency's water supply during the current failure and interruption of water deliveries from the PG&E Canal to try to ensure that the available water supply is equitably distributed among the Agency's customers throughout the Agency's Western Water System service area.

PCWA Board of Directors passed resolution 11-17 on May 10, 2011 declaring a water shortage emergency condition and asked customers to conserve water.

### **Attachments**

PCWA Resolution 11-17  
Proposed Auburn City Council Resolution

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-17 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY FINDING AND  
DECLARING A WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY CONDITION,  
ADOPTING REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON  
DELIVERY AND CONSUMPTION OF WATER AND  
AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

A. WHEREAS, the Placer County Water Agency ("Agency") provides water for residential, commercial, industrial, irrigation, municipal and resale purposes throughout its Western Water System; and

B. WHEREAS, water to the Western Water System is normally supplied almost entirely by Pacific Gas & Electric Company ("PG&E") pursuant to water supply contracts between the Agency and PG&E; and

C. WHEREAS, water for major portions of the Western Water System is delivered to the Agency by PG&E through PG&E'S Bear River Canal ("PG&E Canal"); and

D. WHEREAS, on April 19, 2011, PG&E's Canal collapsed and totally failed, resulting in complete loss of the of the 244 cubic feet per second ("cfs") water supply normally available to the Agency and its customers from PG&E; and

E. WHEREAS, PG&E's repair of the PG&E Canal and restoration of normal water deliveries through the Canal is unlikely to be completed before warmer weather and higher water demands completely outstrip currently available replacement supplies that can be obtained by the Agency through its Zone 3 water system, from the American River, and through emergency interties and exchanges with Nevada Irrigation District, the Cities of Roseville and Lincoln, and San Juan Water District; and

F. WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the best interests of the Agency's Western Water System and the consumers of water from that water system that measures be instituted to conserve the Agency's water supply during the current failure and interruption of water deliveries from the PG&E Canal to try to ensure that the available water supply is equitably distributed among the Agency's customers throughout the Agency's Western Water System service area; and

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2       **G. WHEREAS**, the Agency's ability to supply water to treated water customers from the  
3 Western Water System to meet the needs of human consumption, sanitation, fire protection,  
4 economic and other purposes is dependent in part on the amount of water that can be delivered to the  
5 Christian Valley Park Water Treatment Plant, the Bowman Water Treatment Plant and the Auburn  
6 Water Treatment Plant from Zone 3 and in part on the ability of the treated water customers in the  
7 Western Water System to reduce their water demand by 25% or more; and

8       **H. WHEREAS**, the loss of water supply from PG&E's Canal has rendered the Agency  
9 unable to supply all of the water needs of its water customers who receive untreated water from the  
10 Agency's canals ("canal customers"); and

11       **I. WHEREAS**, because of the collapse of the PG&E Bear River Canal and the resulting  
12 water shortage emergency the Agency has no water that it can make available to its Zone 5 customers  
13 this year;

14       **J. WHEREAS**, to provide at least some water to all canal customers, it is necessary to  
15 reduce water deliveries to the Agency's canals in an equitable manner; and

16       **K. WHEREAS**, on May 5, 2011, in light of the foregoing facts, and at the request of  
17 PG&E for a declaration of emergency to support its requests for expedited permits and other  
18 approvals needed to begin its repair of the Canal, this Board found and declared, by its Resolution 11-  
19 16, that a water shortage emergency exists within its Western Water System service area; and

20       **L. WHEREAS**, notice of the time and place of a public hearing on May 10, 2011, by this  
21 Board was duly given and published, and at that hearing consumers of the Agency's water supply  
22 were given an opportunity to be heard concerning the declaration of water shortage emergency and to  
23 present their respective needs for water to the Board, and such public input has been duly received  
24 and considered by this Board.

25       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Placer County  
26 Water Agency as follows:

27       1. All of the above recitals are true and correct and this Board so finds and determines.  
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2. For all the reasons set forth in the above recitals, this Board hereby confirms its findings and declaration in Resolution No. 11-16 that a water shortage emergency condition prevails within the Agency's Western Water System as a result of the collapse and total failure of the PG&E Bear River Canal.
  3. The Board extends its profound gratitude to Nevada Irrigation District, the Cities of Roseville and Lincoln and San Juan Water District for the emergency water supplies which they have so quickly and graciously provided to the Agency to assist in partially meeting water needs of the residents, businesses and water users of Placer County Water Agency and directs the General Manager to convey its thanks to them.
  4. Due to the loss of supply from the PG&E Canal, no supplemental water exists for distribution and delivery to Zone 5, and the declaration of water availability for Zone 5 provided by the Board at its meeting of April 7, 2011 is hereby rescinded.

5. Treated Water Use

In order to try to ensure the continued dependable supplies of water for public health and safety, including particularly for domestic, sanitation and fire-fighting use, all customers that receive their water supplies from the Agency's Western Water System, including all retail and wholesale customers of both treated and untreated water, are requested to reduce their water consumption by 25% or more by observing at least the following water use practices, and the Agency staff is directed to use all reasonable methods to assist treated water customers in making such reductions:

a. Outdoor use of water

- i. Customers with an even-numbered street address should use water outdoors only on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
- ii. Customers with an odd-numbered street address should use water outdoors only on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.
- iii. Do not use water outdoors on Mondays.
- iv. Water only during early morning or after sunset and avoid watering during daylight hours.

- v. Reset water timers to reduce by 25% the minutes a valve station is operating, to reduce outdoor irrigation to the extent practicable. Inspect your landscape irrigation systems for leaks, adjust spray heads to minimize overspray and prevent runoff.
- vi. Non-commercial vehicle washing should be done only by using a bucket and hose with a shutoff nozzle.
- vii. Use a broom or rake to clean streets, sidewalks, parking lots or driveways; do not use water for outdoor cleaning.
- viii. To the extent possible, do not add water to decorative fountains, pools, ponds and decorative waterways and do not refill them until the water shortage emergency is over. Use water recirculation system in all decorative water features.
- ix. If drained, swimming pools should not be refilled.

**b. Indoor Water Use**

- i. Run dishwashers and washing machines only when there is a full load.
- ii. Repair toilet leaks and dripping faucets.
- iii. Do not run water needlessly such as when brushing teeth, washing dishes by hand or shaving.
- iv. Limit shower time to five minutes and install low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators.
- v. Never put water down the drain when you can use it for purposes such as watering a plant or garden or cleaning.
- vi. Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of facial tissues and other such waste in the trash rather than the toilet.

**c. Commercial Indoor Water Use.**

- i. Serve water to commercial patrons only if expressly requested.
- ii. Observe the practices identified above in (a) and (b) to the extent practicable.

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2 **d. Resale Water**

3 Staff is directed to contact all resale water suppliers to which the Agency provides water  
4 and urge that each request its customers to conserve water and reduce water use by 25%  
5 by adhering to the indoor, outdoor, commercial and hydrant water use practices set forth  
6 in paragraph 5 of this resolution.

7 **e. Hydrant Use**

8 Applications for use of water from public hydrants will be granted subject to limitations of  
9 hydrant location and such other conditions as are reasonably necessary to prevent depletion of  
10 supplies needed for human consumption, sanitation and fire-fighting purposes.

11 **6. Canal Water Use**

12 In order to try to ensure the continued dependable supplies of water for public health and  
13 safety, including for domestic, sanitation and fire-fighting use, the Agency staff is directed to  
14 use all reasonable methods in the operation of the Western Water System, including, but not  
15 limited to, changing the sizes of the orifices through which water is delivered to customers  
16 and instituting "rolling" or alternating canal outages. Among the steps that the Board hereby  
17 specifically authorizes are the following:

- 18 **a.** Orifices for all canal water customers in Zone 3, and for customers in Zone 1 who take  
19 water from canals that deliver water to a water treatment plant must be resized to  
20 provide no more than 50% of the customer's summer water delivery rate or ½ miners  
21 inch, whichever is greater, *provided that*, orifices of commercial customers shall be  
22 resized to provide 75% of the customer's summer water delivery rate or ½ miners inch  
23 whichever is greater, and *provided further that* orifices that provide wholesale water  
24 for treated water systems shall not be resized or reduced. Staff is authorized and  
25 directed to implement this orifice resizing as expeditiously as possible.
- 26 **b.** A variance from the provisions of subparagraph 6(a) above may be granted based  
27 upon undue hardship, upon application in writing to the Agency's General Manager or  
28 his designee, stating in detail the alleged hardship, and after a finding by the General  
Manager that such a variance will not prevent the Agency from meeting domestic,  
sanitation and fire protection needs and is in the public interest. Upon granting any

1 such variance, the General Manager may impose such conditions as he determines to  
2 be just and proper to protect public health and safety.

3 c. A canal water customer whose orifice is not resized will nevertheless be subject to  
4 reduced water supplies through rotating canal outages that are intended to stretch the  
5 available water supply as far as possible. Depending on weather, the source and  
6 availability of water for any given canal, the length of the canal and its diversions and  
7 losses, this will mean different scheduled outages for different canals.

8 i. Staff is authorized and directed to rotate the use of the canals in the Agency's  
9 canal system to provide water periodically to every canal customer to the  
10 extent possible, as frequently as possible.

11 ii. In recognition that the maximum use of available water is achieved when  
12 customers know in advance of its availability, staff is directed to inform  
13 customers by all reasonable methods available, including by posts on the  
14 Agency's website, of the schedule of canal water availability for each canal  
15 and a listing of the time when water is released into the head of any given  
16 canal.

17 iii. Canal operators are directed to maintain communication with the Customer  
18 Service personnel at the Agency's office and to inform them of the time that  
19 water is released into each canal, and of any problems that become known  
20 impeding the delivery of water in any canal.

21 iv. Water delivery entitlement of any customer who informs the Agency in  
22 writing that he or she is willing to forego untreated water delivery for the  
23 duration of the Water Shortage Emergency will be preserved, and no fees or  
24 charges related to the discontinuance or reinstitution of service, otherwise  
25 imposed by Agency Regulations Nos. 40402 or 41305, will be assessed.

26 7. At each meeting of the Board until the Declaration of Water Shortage Emergency is rescinded  
27 by the Board, the Board will consider whether additional or mandatory measures must be  
28 taken to address the emergency. Staff is directed to agendize and report to the Board at each  
meeting the status of water supplies, the adequacy of conservation to meet health and safety  
needs, and to recommend whether additional conservation measures should be requested or  
required.

1 8. The actions taken hereunder are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental  
2 Quality Act of 1970 in that they constitute an emergency project, and the General Manager of  
3 the Agency is hereby directed to file a Notice of Exemption with the county clerk.

4 **THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS DULY PASSED** at a meeting of the Board of  
5 Directors of the Placer County Water Agency held May 10, 2011, by the following vote on  
6 roll call:

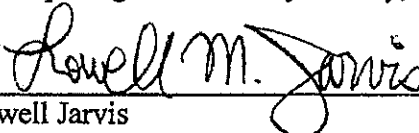
7 AYES: Directors Alex Ferreira, Mike Lee, Ben Mavy, Chair Lowell Jarvis

8 NOES: None

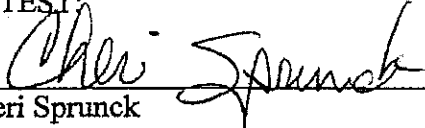
9 ABSTAIN: None

10 ABSENT: Director Gray Allen

11 Signed and approved by me after its passage this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.

12   
13 Lowell Jarvis  
14 Chairman, Board of Directors  
15 Placer County Water Agency

16 ATTEST:

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18 Cheri Sprunck  
19 Clerk, Board of Directors  
20 Placer County Water Agency  
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2 RESOLUTION NO. 11-

3 Encouraging Auburn Residents to Conserve Water During the Water Shortage  
4 Emergency

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6 THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUBURN DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

7 That the City Council of the City of Auburn does hereby encourage our citizens  
8 to conserve water during this emergency water shortage.

9 As a result of the failure of a PG&E canal that is critically important to Placer  
10 County Water Agency (PCWA) and its customer's water supply, PCWA and the  
11 City Council of Auburn, urgently need everyone's help to conserve water.

12 During this water crisis, the following actions should be taken immediately:

- 13 • Reduce your water consumption by 25% or more  
14 • Outdoor watering:

15 Only water 3 days per week

16 Addresses ending in an odd digit: Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

17 Addresses ending in an even digit: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

18 No watering on Monday

19 Water early morning or after sunset and avoid watering during daylight hours

20 Reset and reduce water timers by 25%

21 Inspect and repair entire irrigation system

- 22 • Wash vehicles using a bucket and hose with a shutoff nozzle  
23 • Sweep sidewalks and driveways – do not use water  
24 • If drained, do not refill swimming pools  
25 • Run dishwashers and washing machines only when there is a full load  
26 • Request restaurants serve water only upon request by patron  
27 • Please use as little water as necessary and use it wisely.  
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1 DATED: May 23, 2011

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William W. Kirby, M.D., Mayor

4 ATTEST:

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7 Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk

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9 I, Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk of the City of Auburn, hereby certify  
10 that the foregoing resolution was duly passed at a regular meeting of the City  
11 Council of the City of Auburn held on the 23rd day of May 2011 by the  
12 following vote on roll call:

13  
14 Ayes:

15 Noes:

16 Absent:

17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk